

Minutes of Empire Alpaca Association Board Meeting November 30, 2004 (teleconference)

Present: Barry Finer – Gore Mountain Farm
Chris Gilman – Riverside Alpacas
Richard Jonassen – Alpacas of Rain Dance Pond
Steve McCarthy – Spruce Ridge Farm
Polly Michaelis—Finger Lakes Alpacas
Susan Wissick – Oh, My! Alpacas
Scott Young – Hilltop Alpacas

Meeting called to order at 8:06 PM.

November 15, 2004 minutes approved and seconded.

Symposium Venue:

The Desmond in Albany prefers that we are not there Valentine's Day weekend again since it is a big wedding weekend for them. Various Board members reported on their discussions with other hotels:

Gilman: Beaver Hollow (between Rochester & Buffalo). Wonderful but expensive (\$330/person double occupancy).

Gilman: Marks Hotel (Syracuse). Recently renovated. Not available 2/13; unsure about animals. \$85/night.

McCarthy: Mohonk Mountain resort (New Paltz). Excellent but expensive. Ok with animals.

Wissick: Did not get a hold of RIT Center yet. Spoke to "Inn on the Lake" (Canandaigua). Not available 2/12.

Finer: The Sagamore (Bolton Landing). Beautiful and reasonable (\$129/night). First class place, ok with animals. Problem: again in the eastern part of the state.

For comparison, Desmond was about \$100/night in 2004.

Symposium Speakers:

Based on the reviews from the 2004 conference, EAA members definitely want a vet/medical section as part of the seminar.

Discussed using the Accredited Breeders School organization to run the seminar since they are organized, have a slate of speakers available on a variety of topics and provide materials. If attendees wish, they can take a test to get ABS credits. Polly to follow-up.

Other speakers and topics were discussed including a neonatal clinic. Scott to follow-up with Toni Cotton.

County Extension Conference:

Scott Young reported that the National Association of County Agricultural Agents 2005 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference will take place in Buffalo on

July 17-21, 2005. This is an excellent opportunity for EAA, as the alpaca organization in the host state for the convention, to highlight alpacas to such an important and influential group in agriculture. Sponsorship (\$2,500-\$10,000) of the convention is a possibility which will allow a presentation to the convention. Scott to discuss with AOBA for financial support. We can have a booth in the vendor space and also bring animals. Can arrange for a farm tour to a nearby alpaca farm.

Miscellaneous:

EAA has booked advertising in Alpacas Magazine and American Livestock.

The Adirondack Life Magazine has pushed back their story on alpacas to the 2nd half of 2005.

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Meeting closed at 9:03 PM.

The Board will meet again by conference call on at Friday December 3, 2004 at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Stephen McCarthy, Secretary